



Connecticut Department of
**ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Public Hearing – February 22, 2012
Program and Development Committee

Testimony Submitted by Commissioner Dan Esty
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Macky McCleary

**Raised House Bill No. 5155 - AN ACT MODIFYING THE BAN ON PESTICIDE APPLICATIONS ON SCHOOL
GROUNDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised House Bill No. 5155 – An Act
Modifying the Ban On Pesticide Applications On School Grounds.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the
following testimony.

DEEP opposes this bill. The ban on pesticides at school grounds for grades pre-K through 8 is a powerful
tool which promotes caution about children's health. While DEEP supports integrated pest management
(IPM), and frequently finds such an approach becomes a commitment to a more holistic system to pest
management, we feel that there is not enough data at this time to justify overturning the ban. Over the
long term, there may be room for adding flexibility to the ban. It should, however, be done with an eye
toward selecting the least hazardous alternative that will control a particular pest, and must be done in
a scientific and transparent manner.

The bill would remove the ban on lawn care pesticides for school grades pre-K through 8, and replace it
with an IPM mandate for all schools through grade 12. It would also provide DEEP the authority to write
regulations and issue fines if the statute was violated. DEEP notes that the language in the bill refers to
fines rather than civil penalties. The former term implies criminal sanction, which is not usually
appropriate for this type of violation.

Many states, including Massachusetts, have IPM mandates, and the federal EPA, while not requiring
IPM, does encourage adopting such programs at schools. <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/ipm/>.

DEEP is aware of the challenges schools face in controlling pests on their grounds. We look forward to
working with schools and industry to develop sophisticated programs for pest management in the
future.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact DEEP's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance at 424-3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov